

ePowerGrid Real-Time Simulator Family Designed To Meet Increasing Power System Complexity

From Nanoseconds to Seconds
From Small isolated systems To Micro Grids
To Large Interconnected Grids

Jean Bélanger

Opal-RT Technologies in Brief

COTS-based Real-Time Simulation and HIL Test Systems

- Established in 1997, Montreal
 - 20% of annual revenue in R&D
 - 85+ employees
 - ☐ Fully Digital Real-Time Simulators
 - ☐ HIL, RCP and PHIL Systems
 - Control and Protection System Tester
- Integrated with MATLAB/SIMULINK and other software
- Multi-core INTEL Computer Cluster
- XILINX FPGA I/O and Processor System

- Subsidiaries in France, USA and India
 - Soon in Australia

Integrator and Distributor Network



- □ Aero, Defense, Transportation, Power Electronic, Utilities & Universities
 - Automotive and Off-Highway vehicles OEM and Tier One Suppliers
 - □ Electric Train and Ship builders and More Electrical Aircrafts R&D Centers
 - Industrial Power Electronic Manufacturers
 - Power grids, micro-grids, distributed generation, PV ...

Opal-RT Technologies

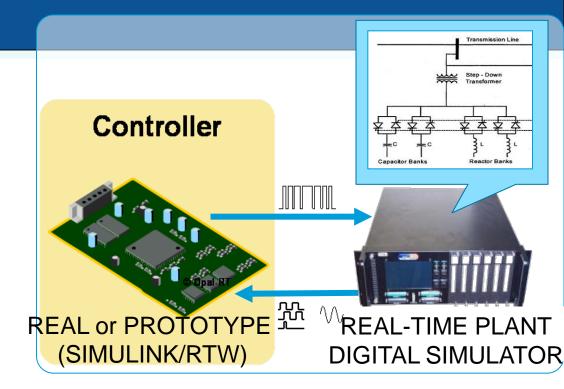
Challenges and Solutions for Real-Time Smulation of Intelligent Power Systems

Outline

- What is real-time simulation and HIL
- Evolution of power systems
- Evolution of real-time simulation technologies
- Type of simulation tools vs Application
- Challenges and solutions- Transmision system
- Adddtional challenges for Distribution and micro-grids

What is a Real-Time Simulator?

- Real-Time Computer Integrated with
 - Modeling and Simulation Software (Simulink, SPS, RTW)
 - Input/Output system
 - Real-Time Data Logging
 - CPU Monitoring
 - Host Computer for User Interface and Waveform Display



- Designed to Meet Hard Real-Time Constraints for Hardware-in-the Loop
 - All model calculations MUST be completed within the specified time period
 - Must include Real-Time processor monitoring and overrun detection

- Capable of Emulating...
 - Simulated plant;
 - Control systems
 - or both SIMULTANEOUSLY
- ... with Good Accuracy
 - Better than 50 us time step
 - Better than 200 nanosecond timing

MODEL BASED DESIGN





Simulink, SimPowerSystems
variable or fixed-step
Single- or multi-core Windows P

HIL and SIL:
Control prototyping
with Real-Time virtual plant

Prototype Controller Simulink, RTW

xPC, RT-LAB

Real-time PCs

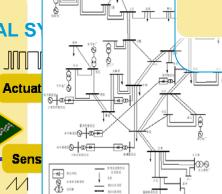
Real-Time Simulator

2 1 5 SPECIFICATION

6

FINAL INTEGRATIONTESTS





HIL: Pre-production controller and Real-Time virtual plant

Controller



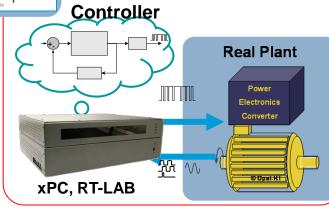
HIL-Control Prototyping with physical plant

MODEL BASED DESIGN

Iterative method

Refining specification and performance at each steps

Optimal use of simulation, HIL and physical prototype



FAST OR REAL-TIME OPERATING MODES

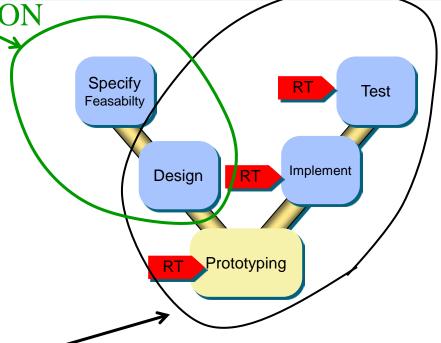
FAST PARALLEL SIMULATION

- NON REAL-TIME

OPTIMISATION

RANDOM TESTS –
 Performance & Stress Analysis

- SOFTWARE-IN-THE-LOOP
 - Control & Protection
 - Algorithm Test
- PREPARATION FOR HIL TEST
- With Normal PCs (Windows, LINUX or QNX)
- HARD REAL-TIME (LINUX or QNX RTOS)
 - DESIGN & OPTIMISATION
 - With Real Control & Protection Hardware
 - With Actual RT Software



RANDOM HILTESTS

- Performance, Stability
- Controller Interaction
- Stress Analysis

TROUBLESHOOTING & TRAINING

With Actual Control & Protection Hardware

17

Random Tests on Simple and Complex Networks

- To find Worst Case Scenarios or Statistical Distribution
 - Line Energization (3 breakers)
 - Fault + Line Reclosing (9 breakers)
 - Overvoltages and Arrester Energization
 - □ Protection and Controls
 - Operating Times Min, Max, Average
 - Test for Fault Operation
 - Controls FACTS, HVDC, SVC, Series Capacitors ...
 - Influence of System Transients
 - Harmonic Overvoltages and Inrush Currents
 - Stresses on Components
 - ☐ Interactions between Distributed Control and Protection Functions
 - WIDEBAND: Simultaneous Simulation of Very Slow (minutes) and Very Fast (nanoseconds) Transients
 - BLACKOUT SIMULATION AND PREVENTION

Opal-RT Technologies

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Challenges: More Complex Power Grids

Conventional AC Power Transmission Systems

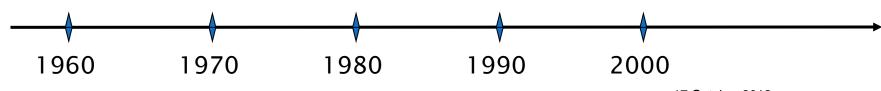
HVDC, SVC & Thyristor-based FACTS

More Complex Systems

More and Faster Power Electronic Systems

(MORE NUMERICAL CONTROLLERS)

IGBT-based FACTS and HVDC



Challenges: More Complex Power Grids

Conventional AC Power Transmission Systems

HVDC, SVC & Thyristor-based FACTS

1990

More Complex Systems

More and Faster Power Electronic Systems

(MORE NUMERICAL CONTROLLERS)

INTELLIGENT POWER GRIDS

- Distributed Generation and Controls
- Global Power Grid Control

1960

- More Complex Protection Systems
- Integration made by several manufacturers
- Utilities have less control over the system

IGBT-based FACTS and HVDC

New <Smart> Distrisbution systems

Drives, Active Loads, FACTS

Wind farms

Micro Grids, distributed generation

Plug-in & Electric Vehicles

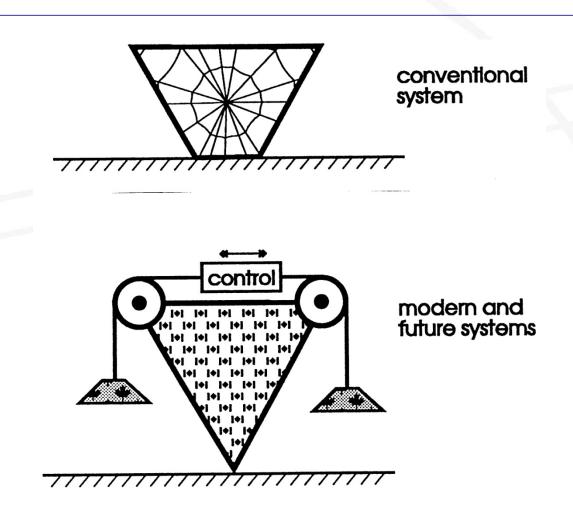
Distribution systems are becoming more complex than high-voltage transmission systems

1970

1980

Fast and Real-Time simulators
will become more important
and must evolve with power
system technology

Power systems are becoming increasingly dependent on complex control techniques to ensure efficiency, security and reliability



Opal-RT Technologies

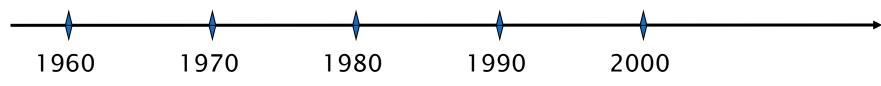
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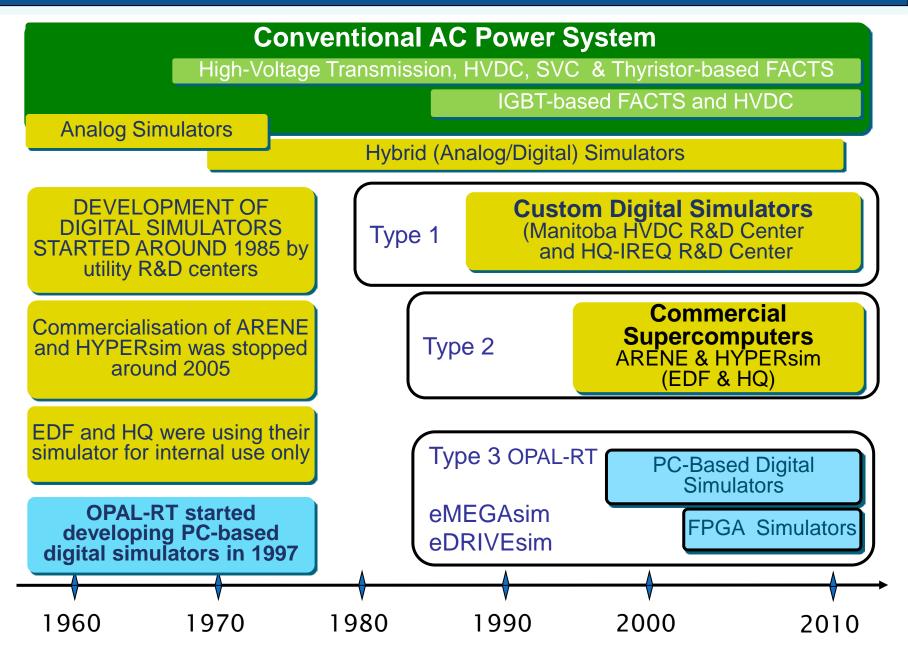
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Evolution of Real-Time Electric Simulator Technology

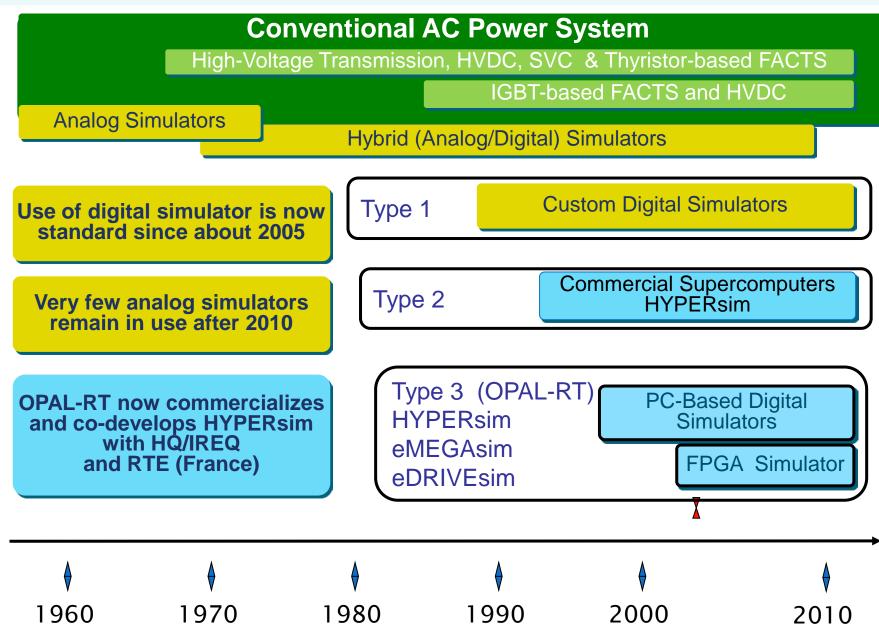




Evolution of Real-Time Electric Simulator Technology



Evolution of Real-Time Electric Simulator Technology

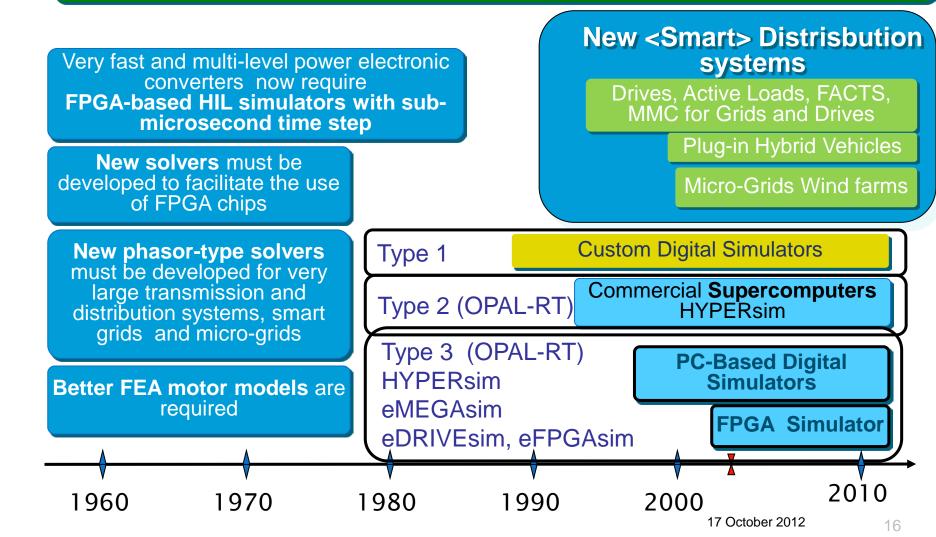


New Challenges for Real-Time Digital Simulators

Conventional AC Power System

High-Voltage Transmission, HVDC, SVC & Thyristor-based FACTS

IGBT-based FACTS and HVDC



Simulator flexibility and performance must evolve faster than Power System Complexity Increases

Better Accuracy

- Increase Simulator bandwidth
- ❖Smaller time step values
- ❖Better models and validation

Better Scalability and Flexibility

- ❖Transmission system with 1000 + nodes
- ❖ Distribution systems with 100,000 + nodes
- ❖DC Grids, Several MMC HVDC with 1000 + cells
- ❖Windfarms, PE, Plug-in ...
- ❖Phasor and EMT solvers

From Nanoseconds to Seconds in the same simulation run

From Large Interconnected Grids
To Micro Grids to
To Small isolated systems

Better Affordability and Upgradability

Commercial Off-The-Self High-End Computers
 Taking advantage of latest technologies
 developed for the web, mobile equipment and multi-media markets

Challenges: Better Accuracy, Scalability, Flexibility and Affordability are Requested by all Industries

Power Systems

- ❖Generation, transmission and distribution
- ❖Micro grids and distributed/renewable energy systems

From
Large Interconnected Grids
To Small isolated systems
To Micro Grids

Automotive

- Hybrid electric vehicles
- ❖Plug-in hybrid and full electric vehicle

Electrical Trains and Ships

- ❖Multi-drive propulsion systems
- ❖ Redundant distributed generation, load and distribution systems
- ❖Interconection with grids

From Seconds to Nanoseconds

Aircrafts

- ❖<more> and <all> electrical aircrafts
- Redundant and very fast power eletronic

Serving all markets is a key advantage for OPAL-RT and its customers

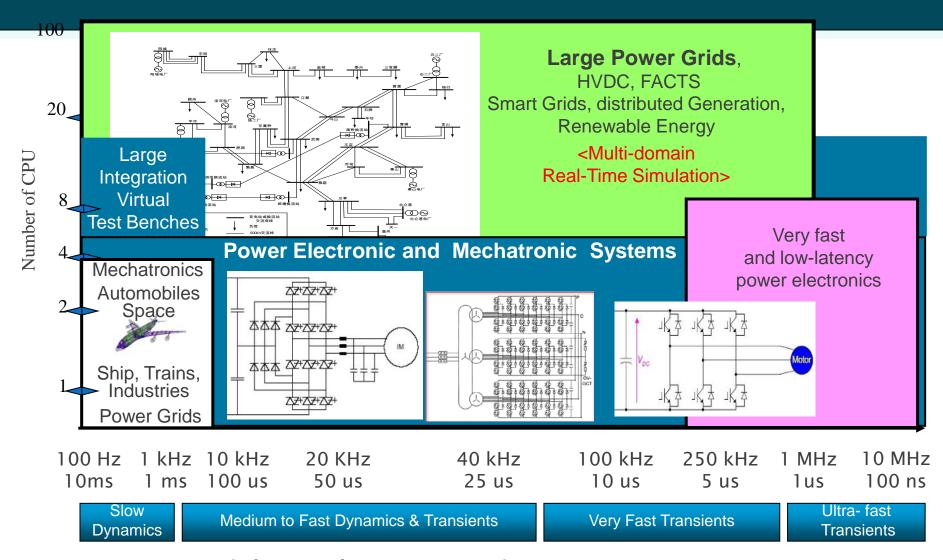
Opal-RT Technologies

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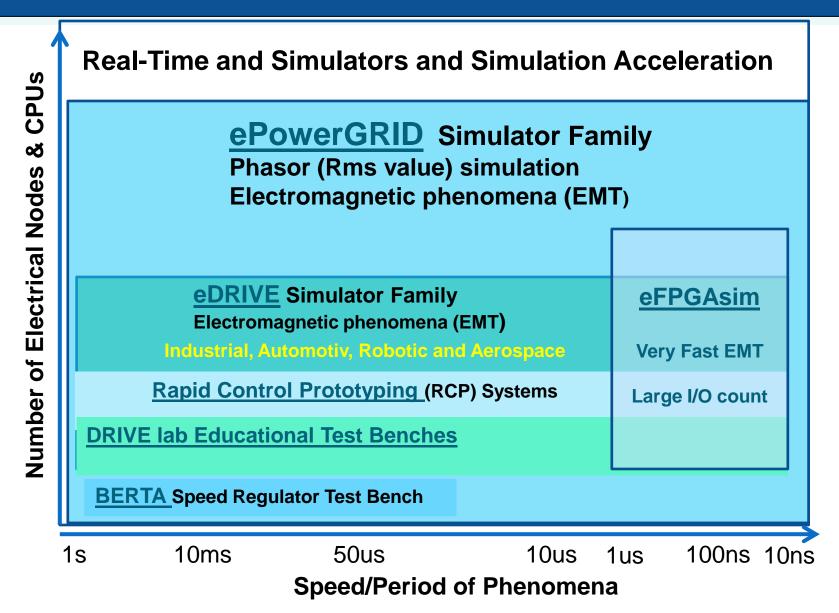
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Applications vs. Simulator Performance Requirements

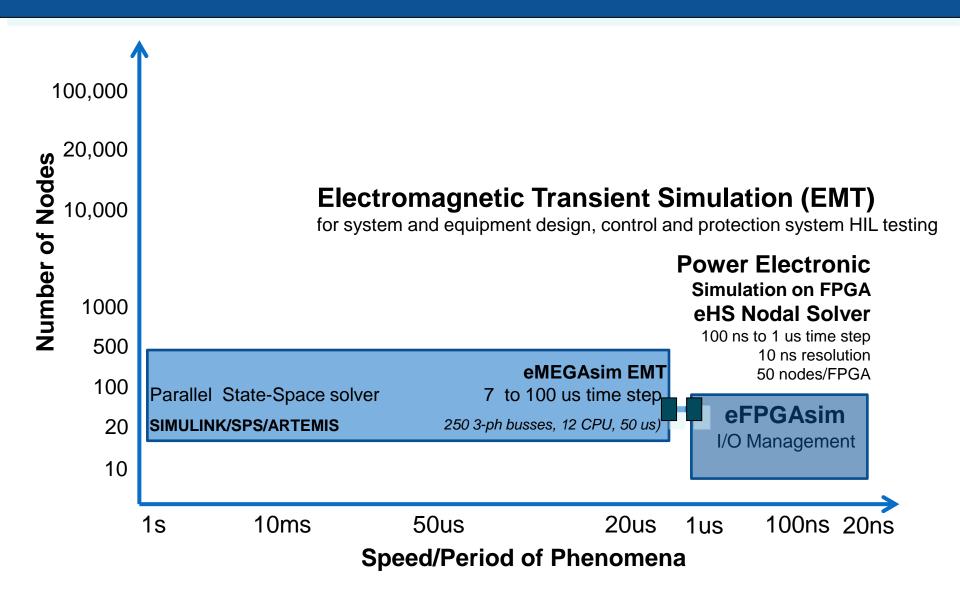


Model Sampling Rate and Time Step Requirement (when OPAL-RT interpolation algorithm is used)

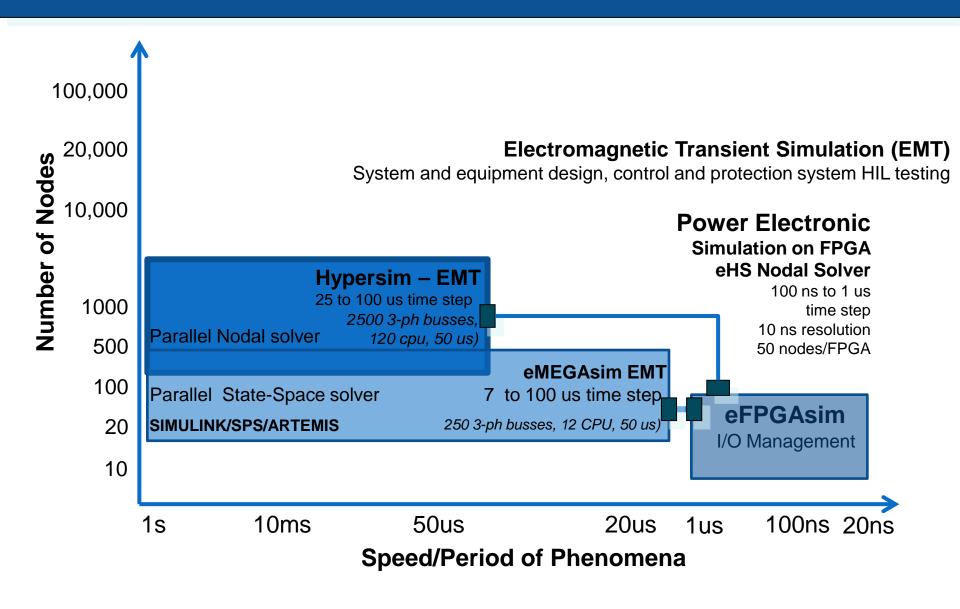
Solutions For Electrical System Simulation



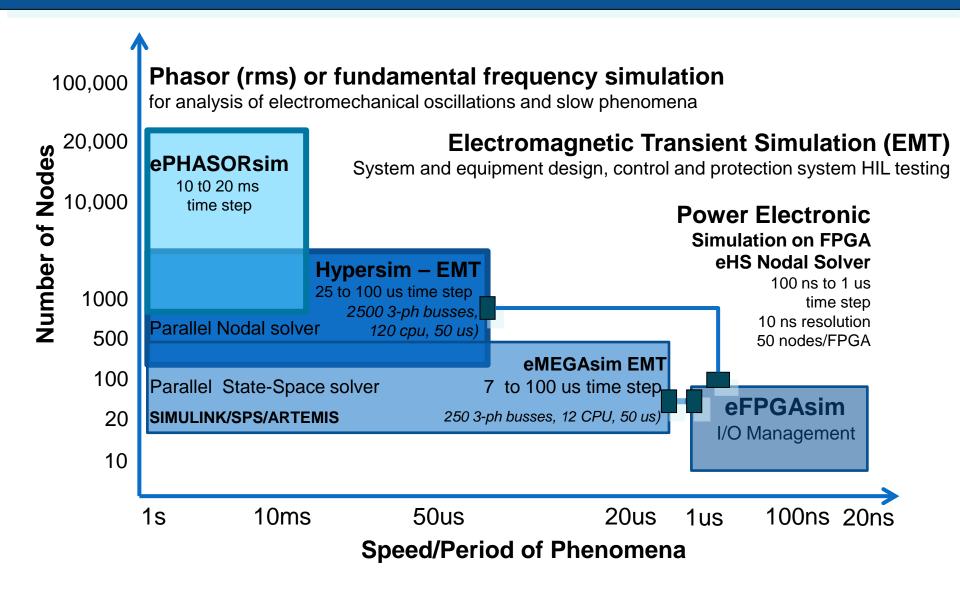
ePowerGRIDsim Product Family Overview



ePowerGRIDsim Product Family Overview



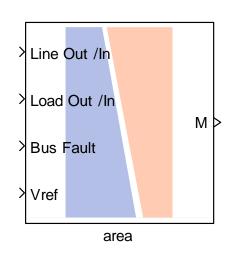
ePowerGRID Simulator Product Family



ePHASORsim

- Real-time transient stability simulation tool
 - for large-scale power systems
 - Phasor-domain solution with a time-step in the range of few milliseconds
 - 20,000 nodes real-time 10 millis
 - 5000 nodes with breaker switching
- TRANSMISSION SYSTEMS: Positive sequence
- **DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS: Unbalanced systems** (2012Q4)
- Standard and extensible library
- Ideal for simulating several types of events, control, and adjustment actions
- Advanced HIL and Model-In-the-Loop testing of power system components

Interfaced with SIMULINK



ePHASORsim Applications

- Integration sudies of distributed energy resources and loads
- Operator Training Simulator (OTS)
- Dynamic Security Assessment (DSA)
- Test, tune, and optimize setting of control devices
- Test SCADA systems with PMU measurements
- Test and adjustment local control systems such as transformer tap-changer, capacitor banks

HYPERsim: the Next Level of Scalability

- SGI Global memory super computer
- Scalable to more than 1000 processors
- Fully Automatic allocation of processors base on analysis of the circuit diagram
- No modification of the model when I/O or the number of processors are modified
- Automated tests for protection and control testing
- RLC circuit parameter values can be changed on-the-fly without model recompiling
- Developed and used by Hydro-Quebec over the last 25 years; selected by major utilities and R&D center
- Will soon be integraded with OPAL-RT O7000 FPGA-based I/O, eFPGAsim simulator and Standard INTEL multi-core computer systems



eMEGAsim: Openess, Performance and Scalability

OPEN, HIGH-PERFORMANCE AND SCALABLE HARDWARE

- Standard INTEL LINUX Multi-Core Computers
- Cluster with low-latency DOLPHIN switch
- SGI Global memory super computer
- OP5600 and OP7000 Multi-FPGA systems

OPEN SOFTWARE

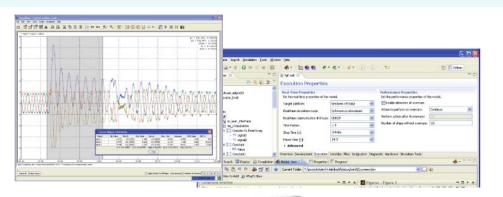
- RT-LAB Distributed Real-Time Framework
- Full integration with MATLAB, SIMULINK, RTW, SimPowerSystem and SimScape
- ARTEMIS, SSN and eHS-FPGA solvers

TEST AUTOMATION

- TestStand, Phython script, MATLAB Script
- Used by major manufacturers, Universities and R&D centers since more than 7 years



OP5600 eDRIVEsim HIL System



Infolytica and JMAG FEA-Based Motor Models



Controller under test

OP5600 HILBOX with 2 to 12 CPU cores, SPARTAN 3 or VIRTEX-6 XILINX FPGA

eDRIVEsim: Optimized for Power Electronic HIL

• AFFORDABLE SCALABLE ENTRY-LEVEL HIL SYSTEMS

OPEN SOFTWARE

- RT-LAB Distributed Real-Time Framework
- Full integration with MATLAB, SIMULINK, RTW, SimPowerSystem and SimScape, JMAG and Infolytica FEA motor models
- ARTEMIS, SSN and eHS-FPGA solvers
- Library of demo and models for power electronic
- Upgradeable to eMEGAsim



• OPEN AND HIGH-PERFORMANCE HARDWARE

- Standard INTEL LINUX Multi-Core Computers
- OP5600 and OP7000 Multi-FPGA systems

TEST AUTOMATION

- TestStand, Phython script, MATLAB Script
- Used by almost all major power electronic and hybrid vehicles manufacturers, Universities and R&D centers since more than 12 years

eDRIVEsim Applications

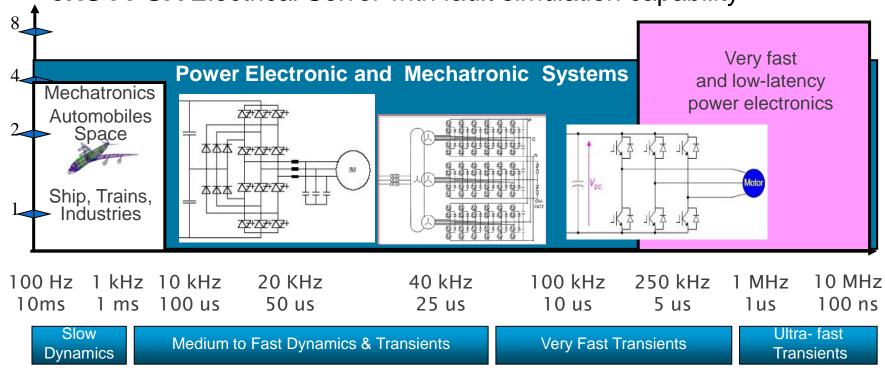
eDRIVEsim Series C: Simple Voltage Source converters HIL systems

eDRIVEsim Series D: AC Fed Converters HIL systems

Number of CPU

Finite element based motor models (Infolytica and JMAG)

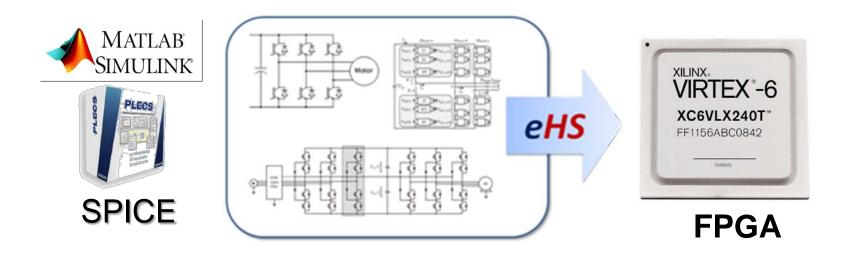
eHS FPGA Electrical Solver with fault simulation capability



Model Sampling Rate and Time Step Requirement (when OPAL-RT interpolation algorithm is used)

eFPGAsim and eHS Electrical Solver

Power Electronics Simulation on FPGA Made Easy



- From Simulink/PLECS to FPGA in a few seconds
- Change topology and parameters on the fly
- No compilation required
- No complex VHDL coding required

Opal-RT Technologies

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Simulator Hardware PLateforms

- Challenges and solutions- Transmision systems
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HARDWARE PLATE FORM



HYPERSIM

Silicon Graphic UV-10 super computer 8 to 256 cores or more

40 CPU Core per 4U chassis

Can be interfaced with several OP7000 multi-FPGA and I/O systems

More ..



eMEGAsim

eDRIVEsim

OP5600 4- to 12-CPU core computer integrated with one FPGA and I/O system -4-U chassis

Up to 256 I/O converters per system Several OP5600 can be interfaced with PCI **Express DOLPHIN links**

More ..



FPGA & I/O **Systems**

OP7000 Multi-FPGA and I/O system - 6U Chassis

eMEGAsim Up to 9 VIRTEX 6 FPGA and 256 I/O converter per system and signal conditioning boards Can be interfaced with the OP5600, standard computer chassis or with the SGI UV 10 super Computer

More ..

Image 4U 12-Core computer **eMEGAsim**

eDRIVEsim

4-U Computer system with 4 to 12 processor core and PCI Express link to interface with OP7000 system

More ..

OP7010 Portable Test System – EDF Nuclear Station

Delivered – Sept 2011

5 to 15 units to be delivered as standard test systems...



Two High-end Hardware Computer Plateforms with Integrated I/O and FPGA

OP7000 Multi-FPGA System



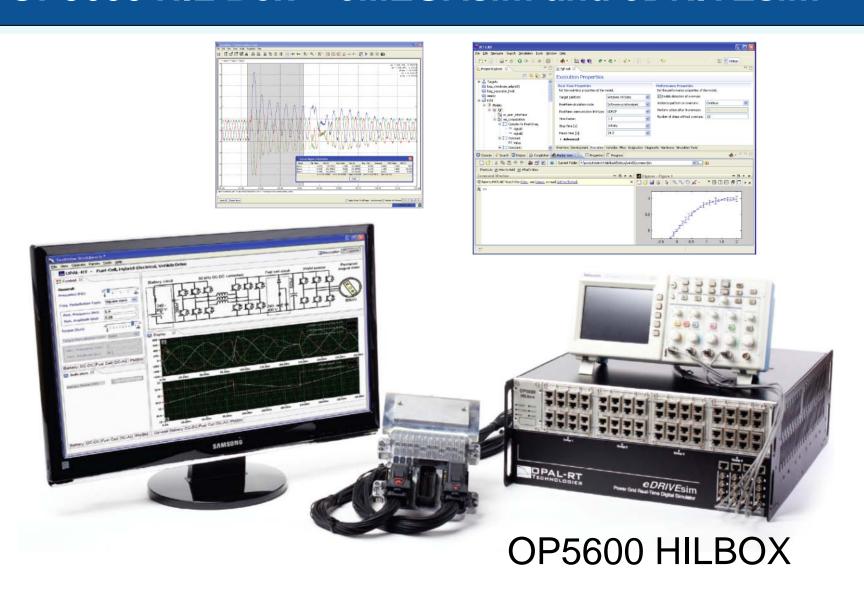
Up to 9 VIRTEX 6 256 I/O with signal conditioning

OP5600 HILBOX Chassis

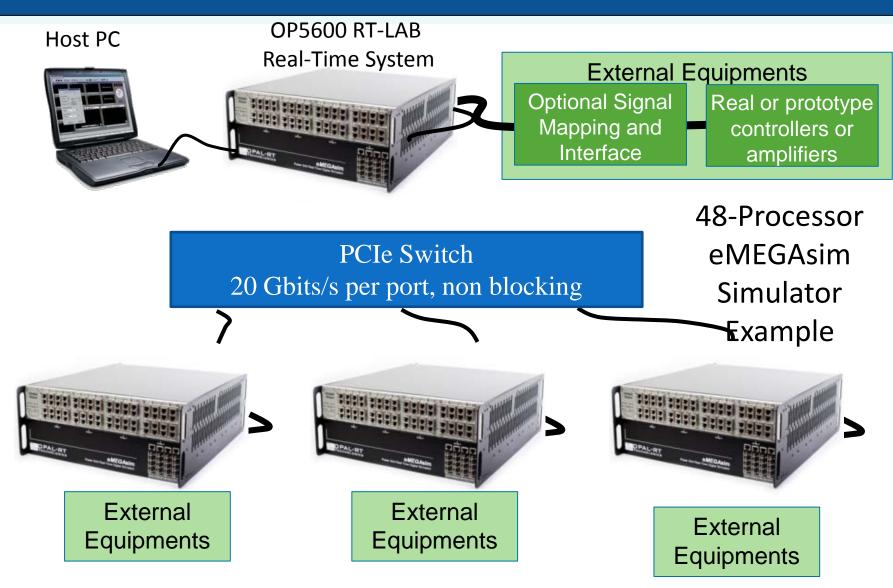


Up to 12 CPU Cores 256 I/O One SPARTAN3 or VIRTEX 6 FPGA

OP5600 HIL Box - eMEGAsim and eDRIVEsim



OP5600 Scalability: Large Number of Processors



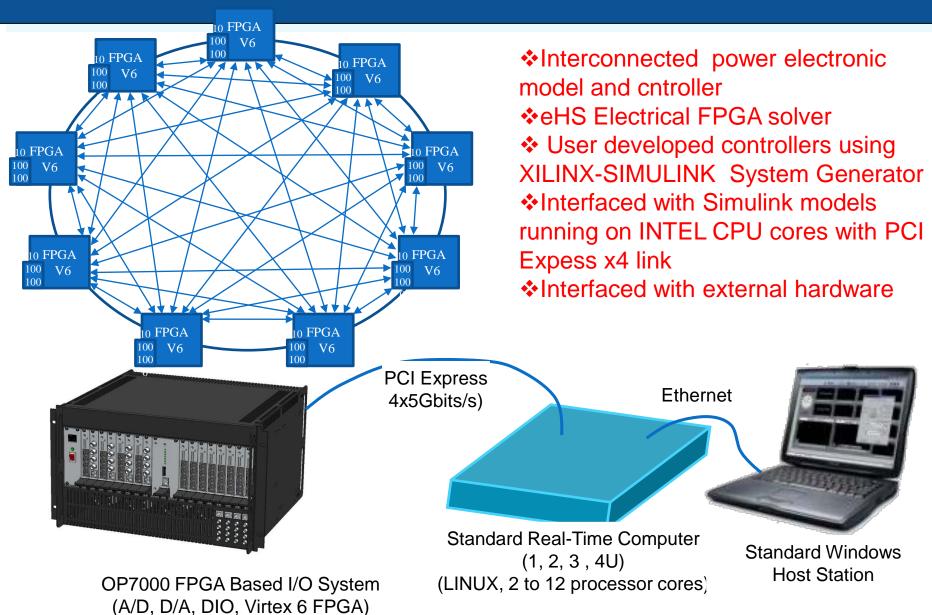
Compatible with eMEGAsim and will soon be compatible with HYPERsim

OP7000 - eFPGA MULTI-FPGA SIMULATOR AND I/O SYSTEM



Interconnected with eDRIVEsim, eMEGAsim and will soon with HYPERsim

OP7000 Hardware Architecture – Multi-FPGA



OP7000 – 6U and 2U Chassis Formats

OP7010 – Full Size 6U chassis

(available since Sept 2011)

-One to nine VIRTEX-6 FPGA, up to 256 I/O ch.

-One PCI Express x4 link (xx20Gbits/s) to interface with real-time multi-core PCs



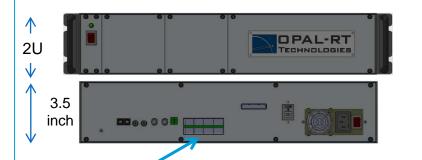
- ❖One PCI Express x4 link (xx20Gbits/s) to interface with real-time multi-core PCs
- Optimized for application with several conventional I/O channels (up to 256 ch)
- ❖Integrated signal conditioning (back-side I/O board)
- ❖Integrated signa monitoting (front side)
- ❖Or up to 256 low-speed (<150 Mbits/s optical fibers
- One fast Aurora 5-Gbits/s link is used to interface each FPGA

OP702x - Compact 2U chassis (2012Q4)

-One VIRTEX-6 FPGA, up 16 5-Gbit/s optical fibers

-One PCI Express x4 link (xx20Gbits/s) to interface with real-time multi-core PCs

OP7020 -6— with ML605 XILINX VIRTEX 6, 8 SFP transceivers (Oct 2012) OP7020-7 — with ML70x XILINX VIRTEX 7, 16 SFP transceivers (2012Q4) **OP7021-6/7 — with VIRTEX 6 or7, 8 to 16 SFP and IOs (2012Q4)**



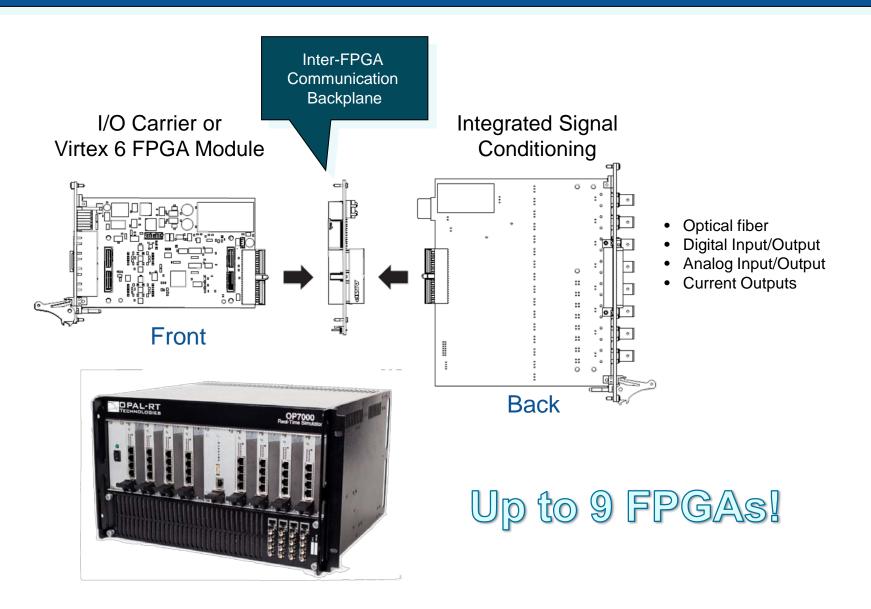
Front view

Back

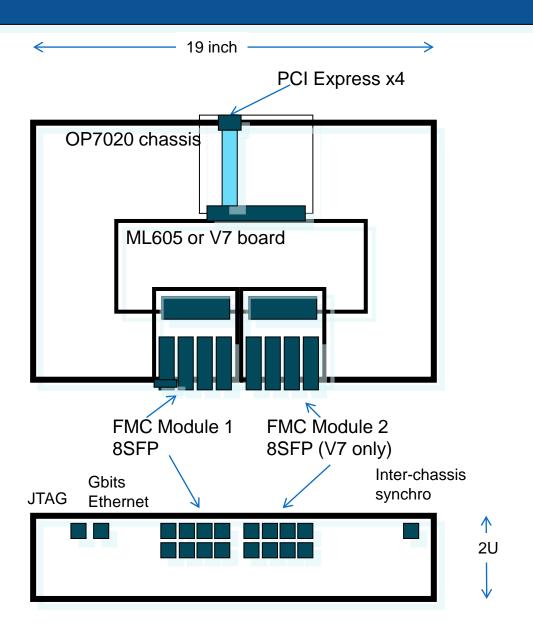
-4, 8 or 12 pairs of fast optical transceivers
- SFP format, 1 to 5 Gbits/s

- Optimized for applications with high-speed optical fibers, SFP format
- ❖ Typical applications are the interface with HVDC MMC controllers and MMC control prototyping system
- Compatible with XILINX ML VIRTEX 6 (now) and VIRTEX 7 (2013Q1) boards

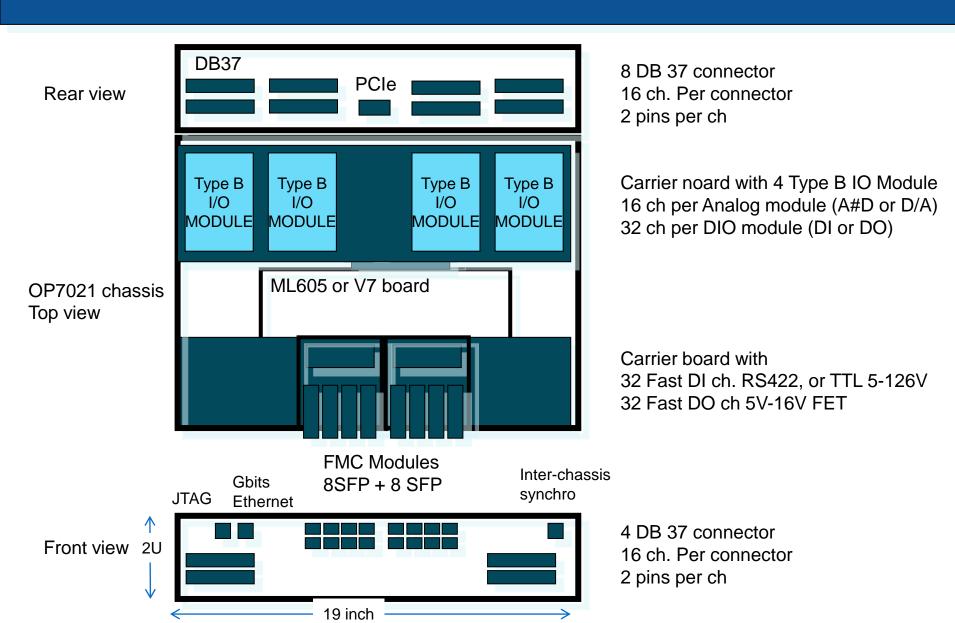
OP7010 Hardware Architecture – I/0



OP7020 Hardware Architecture – I/0



OP7021 Hardware Architecture – I/0



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CHALLENGES & SOLUTIONS - OPENEES

- Scalability to simulate very large systems
 - 250 3-phase busses on one PC! **eMEGAsim**
- 1000 busses on SGI- HYPERsim 1500 MMC cells in one FPGA chip
- communication **MULTI-CORE CPU**

Fast and low latency inter-processor

- Cluster of 8-CPU Super-computers
- PCI Express switches for clusters
- Multi-FPGA s OP7000 eFPGAsim

- **Easy** management of parallel simulation
 - Precise and stable
 - network solver
 - Fast and low latency los
 - Very small time step simulation

power electronic simulation

Easy use of FPGA chips for fast

Automatic CPU allocation -HYPERsim

- ARTEMIS L-STABLE ORDER 5 SOLVER SSN Solver and FEA for motors

eHS Nodal FPGA Solver No bit stream generation

FPGA (250 nanosecond time step)

Parameter and topology modified on the fly!

CHALLENGES & SOLUTIONS

Interpolation (since 2000) Simulation of IGBT switching Comparisons with analog set up Simulation of MANY IGBTs Tests with hundreds of IGBT (MMC) 1500 MMC cells and 3000 swith in one FPGA chip Simulation on FPGA at 250 nanos MATLAB > 20 years, >1M users **Technologies trusted** SPS> Hydro-Québec> 14 years by large organizations HYPERsim HQ > 20 years OPAL-RT: 15 yrs experience, Advanced customers in all markets (aero, auto, power) From 25 k\$ and up **Affordability**

Price will go down with volume

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*Adddtional challenges for Distribution and micro-grids

Challenges	EMT – Electromagnetic transient simulation DC to 10 kHz of large distribution systems integrated with power electronic systems (PV, plug-in hybrids)		
	Solutions – OPAL-RT	Status – Sept 30, 2012	
Large number of a) short-Lines b) nodes c) breakers - Very short line sections between 100 m and 2 km Line travel time cannot be used to implement parallel simulation (1us = 300 m, 10 us = 3km, 50 us = 15 km!)	ARTEMIS SSN (2-Step solver)	Good, but not very scalable over 200 nodes (3 CPU) Optimization required	
	Stub-lines	Good to increase number of nodes but parasitic capacitors are added, which decreases accuracy for low- load conditions	
	New class of parallel EMT solvers	Not started at OPAL-RT We are not aware of new advancement in this domaine	

Challenges	EMT – Electromagnetic transient Cont'd	
	Solutions (OPAL-RT)	Status (Sept 30, 2012)
Large number of a) short-Lines b) nodes c) breakers - Very short line sections between 100 m and 2 km Line travel time cannot be used to implement parallel simulation (1us = 300 m, 10 us = 3km, 50 us = 15 km!)	Simulation on FPGA to decrease time step and then decrease innacuracies caused by artificial delays (Stub lines	- Tstep < 1us buts can be achieved
	eFPGAsim and eHS solver	Available but size is limited and programming complexity is large
	OP7000 Parallel FPGA solver	Under tests but complex programming
	New processor technologies	 - ARM + FPGA (Started) - promising -Multi-core DSP (Started with a university) -GPGPU (promising but not yest available for low latency applications

Challenges	Fundamental frequency only simulation of very large distribution systems for protection and wide area control design and testing if low frequency resonnances (about 150 Hz to 10 kHz) can be neglected		
	Solution (Opal—RT Plan)	Status (as of Sept 30, 2012)	
Large number of a) short-Lines b) nodes (<5000) c) breakers	 ePHASORsim Dist V1 beta Unbalanced three-phase Phasor Solver (phase-by -hase solution) for te circuit Dynamic models for machine, loads and controllers like in PSS/e 	-Under test -Unbalanced -DNP3 Interface -Basic set of controller, OLTC, VVR -Basic machine - ZIP, constant I and P load models -Breakers and faults	
		-Single processor -20,000 nodes, no breaker switching -5,000 nodes with breaker switching - first demo/proto planned for Oct 30	

Challenges	Fundamental frequency only - Cont'd		
	Solution (Opal—RT Plan)	Status (as of Sept 30, 2012)	
Large number of a) short-Lines b) nodes (<5000) c) breakers	Cont'd		
Islanded-mode conditions may lead to solver instability	May require -implicite solver with itteration -new load models -Ilanding mode detection	-Test cases to verify the stability of V1 will start in Oct 2012 - we will start to look for partners	
Average power electronic system models		-Will start in 2013 depending on customer request technology well known (like PSS/e)	

Challenges	Fundamental frequency only	Extremely large network
	Solution (Opal—RT Plan) Parallel Phasor Solver	Status (as of Sept 30, 2012)
Very large number of nodes (>100,000)	ePHASORsim Dist V2 Parallel phasor solver -option 1- SSN	- Basic algorithm tested with MATLAB-C Code must be implemented-Proto for April 2013
	GPGPU (General Purpose Graphical Processor Unit)	- dev started in year 2009 but on the ice -Dev will restart in 2013 based on V2 results
	- Look for partners making R&D for real-time and faster than real-time transient dynamic simulation	

Challenges	Detailled simulation of power electronic systems integrated with distribution systems w		
Mixed EMT-Phasor	Solution (Opal—RT Plan)	Status (as of Sept 30, 2012)	
System with less than 200 nodes with detailled power electronic models	Full EMT solution with Combined CPU and FPGA	-Actual solution with eMEGAsim and eFPGAsim -Multi FPGA simulation under test	
Systems with up to 2000 nodes in phasor mode with detailled subsytems simulatated with EMT mode and detailled power electronic model	Combined Phasor and EMT solver with SSN interface - Use of multi-port frequency domain equivalent at interconnection points	 easy for radial distribution system Feasibility studied for meshed systems will started in 2013 looking for parnership 	

Challenges:	DATA MANAGEMENT & SYSTEM DIAGRAM Finding a common data based for all simulation tools (different types of simulation and different vendor tools		
	Solution (Opal—RT Plan)	Status (as of Sept 30, 2012)	
Interface between EMT tools and Phasor-type tools	Temporary solutions not realy integrated	-Simple CVS and EXEL files for ePHASORsim - interface with MATLAB file for EMT (SPS) - interface between EMTP-RV and HYPERSIM will be investigated in 2013 with HQ for EMT -Interface between eFPGAsim, SPS, PLECS and SPICE available for EMT	
	CIM Common Interface Model See next slide		

Challenges	Finding a common data ba	DATA MANAGEMENT & SYSTEM DIAGRAM Finding a common data based for all simulation tools (different types of simulation and different vendor tools		
	Solution (Opal—RT Plan)	Status (as of Sept 30, 2012)		
Interface between EM tools and Phasor-type tools	mode data)	-Participation in IEEE committe -The work is very slow even if the 5 main off- line tool organisation sare participating (EMT- RV, PSCAD, SPS, eMEGAsim, HYPERSIM) -lack of expertise and financing -Participation of only one real-time simulator vendor (OPAL-RT only)		
	CIM EMT Extension with partners commercial solution a with CIM compatible data based and schematic editor start to emerge	-OPAL-RT is looking for partners to accelerate the solution to this problem - the investment will not be negligible -The benefits may be more important for users than for real-time simulator and off-line tool vendors!		

Challenges:	LOAD AND POWER SYSTEM MODEL VALIDATION FOR DYNAMIC TRANSINTS	
	Solution (Opal—RT - proposal	Status
Loads models and distributed generation systems for dynamic transients not validated (large faults and isanded modes)	-Collaboration with test laboratories - development of real-time model identification system for aboratory and field tests	
	- On-line stabilité monitoring and control?	

Challenges:	MODEL VALIDATION – basic components and large models	
	Solution (Opal—RT - proposal	Status
Model validation and limits not documented	Sharing models and analysis in the communoty	
	More education on test and validation Not only on design Design for test!	